

Remarks

The Office Action dated October 18, 2005 has been carefully considered. After such consideration, Claims 9-16 have been cancelled without prejudice. In addition, new drawings, as requested by the Examiner, have been added to show methods of the claimed invention and the specification has been amended to reference those drawings. As such, Claims 1-8; 17-24; and 25-32 remain in the case with none of the claims being presently allowed.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,824,441 to Kindig. First, regarding the rejections of Claims 1-8, Applicant respectfully traverse.


Initially, it is important to note that Kindig uses a different method to produce a superficially similar result. Specifically, Kindig's disclosure relies on sulfur sorbents, and in particular, magnesium sulfur sorbents. (see e.g., col. 12, line 54-56). Kindig's techniques necessitate certain "temperature[s] where magnesium sulfate is stable" (column, 13, lines 1-4). However, under temperatures where magnesium sulfate is stable, "the reaction of magnesium-based sorbents with SO₂ is too slow to be significant" (column 13, lines 4-5). To address this problem, Kindig uses a catalyst to oxidize SO₂ to SO₃ (column 13, lines 16-22). That is, Kindig creates an oxidizing environment.

Accordingly, Kindig does not teach Applicant's *maintaining the reducing environment for a sufficient time period such that reducible acids are reduced*, because a reducing environment would fail to sulfate Kindig's sorbent. Thus, *Kindig* teaches away from Applicant's invention, particularly Applicant's Claims 1-8.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 17-24 and 25-32, Applicant also respectfully traverse. Kindig does not recognize the benefit, nor, more importantly, disclose Applicant's *method of lowering the acid dewpoint temperature of flue gas*. In particular, Kindig does not disclose Applicant's *adjusting the reducing environment for a sufficient time period such that the flue gas acid dewpoint is lowered to a desirable level*. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Kindig fails to anticipate Applicant's Claims 17-24 and 25-32.

The Applicants submit that by this amendment they have placed the case in condition for immediate allowance and such action is respectfully requested. However, if any issue remains unresolved, Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include New Figures 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and 3. These figures represent various embodiments of the present invention.

Attachment: New Sheets